TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

A News Letter

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FOURTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STREET AND HIGHWAY SAFETY

Plans are being discussed for the conduct of a Fourth National Conference on Street and Highway Safety in Washington, during the week of May 21st. As this information is still subject to change, we request that our members consider it confidential and not give any publicity to it until definite announcement has been made by the Conference Headquarters.

According to the tentative plans, an open meeting of the joint Committee on Signs, Markings, Signals and Islands will be held on Monday, May 21, to permit a full discussion of the proposed manual by all those interested in it. The Uniformity Committee of the Fourth National Conference will hold a meeting on Tuesday, the 22nd, to consider written suggestions, comments and criticisms which have been received, relating to Uniform Traffic Legislation. This meeting will also be open to all interested parties.

The Conference itself will start on Wednesday and continue through Thursday and Friday of the same week. Formal action on the various reports of the Conference will be taken during the first two days. The Friday meeting will be utilized to promote definite activities planned to carry out the Conference recommendations. Several special and interesting features are being considered for this program.

CHANGES IN UNIFORM LEGISLATION

In anticipation of the Fourth Conference, a Uniformity Committee was appointed and has developed revised drafts of the entire Uniform Vehicle Code and the Model Municipal Traffic Ordinance. These revisions will be presented to the Fourth Conference for consideration and action.

In connection with the Uniform Vehicle Code, the Committee is considering the inclusion of an "Act on Civil Liability" to cover liability for "guest riders" and questions regarding the operation of for-rent vehicles, etc. A "Safety Responsibility Act" is also under consideration. It will be designed to insure the payment of judgments against operators involved in accidents, and to require evidence of financial responsibility by operators who have been involved in accidents or who are guilty of certain serious violations.

COPIES OF PROPOSED REVISED LEGISLATION

It is proposed that a mimeograph copy of the complete tentative draft of the suggested revisions in the model legislation will be available to those who indicate, on an inquiry form, that they desire to study it. As most of the members of the Institute will wish copies of all Conference material, a list of our members residing in the United States has been given to the Secretary of the Conference with a request that all such members be given an opportunity to obtain a copy. If other members, desiring copies, will write the Secretary of the Institute, we will endeavor to obtain same and forward it to you.

INSTITUTE MEETING IN CONNECTION WITH CONFERENCE

Subject to the development of plans for the Fourth National Conference, consideration is being given to the possibility of holding an informal meeting of the Institute in Washington during the same week. Every effort will be made to plan this meeting, which will probably be a dinner meeting, so that it will not interfere with Conference sessions. It is hoped that there will be time during the Institute meeting for the presentation of statements regarding the new and interesting traffic engineering work being conducted by several Institute members.

C. W. A. TRAFFIC SURVEYS

At the present time, 142 cities have indicated an interest in the development of traffic surveys through the use of unemployed workers. On April 1st, this work was placed under the direction of the Work Division of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Mr. Sidney J. Williams, who is now in charge of the traffic program, indicates that while further new limitations will be involved under the F.E.R.A., he is very hopeful that a number of worthwhile surveys will be made.

OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARKING VIOLATIONS

A decision, of considerable interest to Traffic Engineers, was handed down on March 27th, by the Superior Court

of Massachusetts, on the appeal of a case originally tried in the Municipal Court of the City of Boston. The case involved the responsibility of an automobile owner for a car illegally parked, although the car had not been parked by nor with the knowledge of the owner.

In summarizing his decision, the Court said:

> "The inconvenience of keeping watch over parked vehicles to ascertain who in fact operates them would be impracticable, if not impossible, at a time when many vehicles are parked. We think the rules and regulations of the Boston Traffic Commission in force at the time of the acts complained of and at the trial were framed and intended to cover and make punishable any violation of section ..... by the owner of a registered vehicle, whether the particular violation or violations were by the owner or were by a person allowed, permitted or suffered by the owner of any vehicle registered in his name in any street, way, highway, road or parkway under the control of the City of Boston. In a word, this is one of the unusual instances where a person at his peril must see to it that the rules and regulations are not violated by his act or by the act of another."

This case is known as COMMONWEALTH VS. OBER.

TEMPORARY OPPORTUNITY FOR UNEMPLOYED TRAFFIC ENGINEERS

Any member knowing a person whom he can honestly recommend for temporary traffic engineering work is requested to send the name and address to the Secretary of the Institute. Opportunities may arise for at least temporary work for such persons.

INSTITUTE COMMITTEES

The following members are continuing to serve as chairmen of the respective Committees:

Howard F. Ilgner	Standards and Specifications
Maxwell M. Halsey	Publications
T. E. M. Matson	Terminology and Nomenclature
Roger L. Morrison	Professional Curriculum
Miller McClintock	Policy
Ralph W. Eaton	Finance and Auditing

In addition, the following have been appointed chairmen of the indicated committees:

Donald M. McNeal	Annual Meeting Program
Leroy E. Peabody	Research
J. W. A. Bollong	Membership

Beginning with the June Issue of the "Traffic Digest" and "Traffic Engineer", Lawrence S. Tuttle will become chairman of the Library Committee.

It is hoped that all members of the Institute will take an active part in the work of the Committees to which they are assigned. Many members are especially busy this year, but we must remember the good work done by our Committees does much to enhance the prestige of the Institute.

ANNUAL MEETING

Donald M. McNeal and his Committee are already at work preparing plans for our next annual meeting, which will be held in the fall. The Committee is anxious to know of any new studies undertaken, methods of procedure developed, or interesting results obtained by members of the Institute. Please furnish this information to the Chairman, 908 City County Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to aid him in formulating his program.

ANNUAL PROCEEDINGS

The proceedings of the last annual meeting of the Institute has just been mailed to members. Institute members desiring additional copies can obtain them from the Secretary, for the price of $1.00 instead of the regular price of $2.50.

INDEX TO VOLUME IV - TRAFFIC DIGEST

With the April issue of the TRAFFIC DIGEST, the Library Committee is presenting the index of articles which appeared in volume IV, starting with the issue of May 1933. During the year the Digest has been issued eleven times, the February and March issues being combined, and has been published in pamphlet rather than loose leaf form. Copies of the Digest are being sold to non-members, including libraries and universities, at a price of twenty-five cents an issue or two dollars a year.

In volume IV, 264 articles were reported, including technical, nontechnical and purely popular material dealing in a general manner with the subject of Traffic Engineering. The articles digested appeared in 68 periodicals, including several published in England and Canada and ten published in foreign languages. In addition, articles appearing in 18 books and special reports were referred to

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